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New Jersey School Lunch Week Proclamation

Governor Thomas H. Kean renewed his commitment to New Jersey's children when he signed a proclamation declaring National School Lunch Week at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School in Passaic, New Jersey, on October 21.

During the signing ceremony Kean commented, "I believe it is a basic right for children to be well nourished and we will continue to work so that our children have this opportunity." The state's Secretary of Agriculture Arthur R. Brown, Jr. and Assistant Commissioner of Education Vincent Calabrese participated with the Governor in lauding the success of the program throughout the Garden State and the nation.



Bob Freiler of MARO (standing) joined New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean in celebrating National School Lunch Week at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School.

MARO Special Nutrition Program Director Bob Freiler expressed appreciation on behalf of the Department for the leadership and support the Governor and the respective cabinet officers lend to all child nutrition and food distribution programs throughout the state.

In New Jersey, nearly half of all students participating in the lunch program pay reduced prices or receive free lunches.



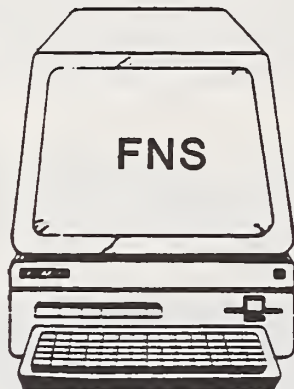
Dominic Ritardi, coordinator of the food distribution section of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (standing), explained at the ceremony that more than 40 million pounds of USDA commodities valued at more than \$16 million were distributed to participating schools in that state.

-Story and Photos by Carol Savage
MARO Public Affairs Office



"Instant Entry" Streamlines Commodity Delivery

The online entry of commodity requisitions links Mountain Plains staff through the giant computer center at Fort Collins, Colorado, and then on to the Kansas City Commodity Office in Missouri. This streamlined system speeds commodities on their way to states quicker than during the pre-computer era.



Online entry is part of a chain that begins when FNS Headquarters allocates Group A commodities to be purchased. MPRO receives an initial "wire" from Headquarters allocating the commodity to be shipped, authorizing orders, and denoting a shipping period. MPRO requests food requisitions from its 10 states and reconfirms each state's allocation. Group B commodity requisitions are sent in by states as needed. Staffers log in the requisitions and assign control numbers. They batch the requisitions for the ADP staff, who keypunch and transmit the data to the Fort Collins center.

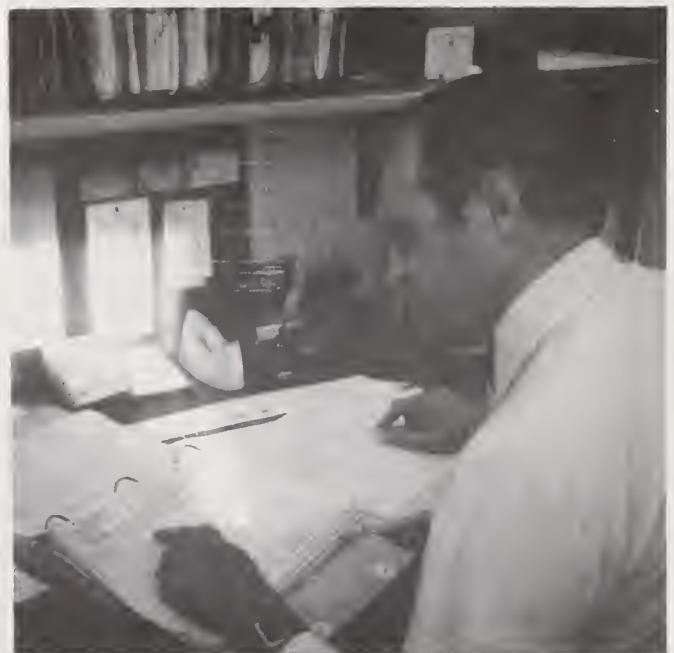
The food distribution staff receive an "edit" that summarizes the order. Fort Collins staff transmit the order directly to the Kansas City Commodity Office, which does follow-up paperwork and arranges shipment.

Depending upon the product involved, carloads can sometimes be split and shipped to more than one destination. The standard arrangement for rail shipments involves two drop destinations and a final destination.

Standard truck shipments (except for frozen meat) allow one drop plus a final destination.

Computerized reports issued every two weeks detail MPRO orders. An 08 computer report covers entitlement commodities and the 21 report shows bonus products. The reports include state-by-state tallies of delivery dates, recipient program, type of packing, number of pounds, dollar value, cost per pound, and date initiated for each line item. Totals show the amount ordered and any balance of entitlement still remaining. The 08 and 21 reports offer a check against requisitions for accountability purposes.

Computerization has speeded up the process by which MPRO's food distribution staff can order commodities. This streamlined process moves approximately \$200 million in commodities in a year to MPRO's 10 states.



Don DeBoer of MPRO's Food Distribution Program checks computer reports on commodity shipments.

-Article by Joanne Widner
Photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Regions Share Food Stamp Management Strategies

One of the most popular speakers at the Southeast Region's Error Reduction Conference this summer was Evert Vermeer, director of the Kent County, Michigan Department of Social Services. Southeast regional officials were impressed with Vermeer's approach to management and error reduction and decided that learning about his techniques would be beneficial to food stamp administrators, particularly to those in the three Southeastern states with the highest quality control error rates.



Using state exchange funds for the trips, regional officials took state food stamp directors and selected county directors from Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina to Kent County for briefings by Vermeer and his staff. Since then, other contingents from those states have also visited Kent County and have had the opportunity to learn about aspects of the county's management approach, from office layout to the agency's incentive system.

The state and local administrators were enthused about trying some of Kent County's ideas. To keep the group's interest fueled, the Southeast Region will host a follow-up meeting in Atlanta in the next few months so that administrators can share plans and experiences.

-Photo and article by
Brenda Schuler
SERO Public Affairs Staff



Some of the group from the Southeastern states pose for a photograph at the conclusion of their state exchange trip to Kent County, Michigan. Seated: John Hunt, Alabama Department of Human Resources; Joyce Clements, Jefferson County, Alabama; Erin Wheeler, Mobile County, Alabama; and Lucia Parsons, Mobile County, Alabama. Standing: Jamie O'Neal, DeKalb County, Georgia; Al DeYoung, Kent County, Michigan; Janet Mann, DeKalb County, Georgia; Ron Bailey, Jefferson County, Alabama; Shirley Tate, Georgia Department of Human Resources; Virgil Conrad, Southeast Regional Administrator; Vallie Staten, Fulton County, Georgia; David Witt, Midwest Regional Office; Marie Elder, Fulton County, Georgia; Art Trotter, Southeast Regional Office; and Evert Vermeer, Kent County, Michigan.

Chicago FEB Gets New Chairman

Midwest Regional Administrator Monroe Woods was recently sworn in as Chairman of the Chicago Federal Executive Board (FEB).

In his inaugural address, Chairman Woods outlined his goals for the year. He also expressed his commitment toward increasing FEB community involvement and enhancing public perception and appreciation of Federal employees' contributions to the community.

Established by the President in 1961, the FEB's are located in cities which are important centers of Federal activity. The purpose of the executive boards is to strengthen coordination of government activities outside the Washington, D.C. area by providing for an interagency working group concerned with the coordination of local activities across agency

lines. They provide opportunities to pool experience and resources and accomplish savings. These include common support functions such as management and budgetary procedures, personnel policies, recruitment efforts, office space uses, procurement activities, and public information duties.

FEB's are organized cooperatively by designated heads of local installations of Federal agencies. The chairman is elected by board members and other officers are appointed or elected from among the membership.

U.S. District Judge James B. Parsons administers the oath of office to Chicago Federal Executive Board Chairman Monroe Woods (fifth from left) and Executive Committee members.

-Photo by Lawrence Rudman
MWRO Public Affairs Staff



Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of September with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Sep. 1985</u>	<u>Aug. 1986</u>	<u>Sep. 1986 2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	19.2	19.2	19.1
Value of bonus coupons (\$mil.)	854.6	869.5	865.3
Average bonus per person	\$ 44.51	\$ 45.33	\$ 45.30
Total program cost (\$mil.)	935.7	959.6	955.4
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	89.4	89.1	89.1
Children participating (mil.)	23.2	3.8	23.5
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	10.6	2.2	10.8
Percentage of lunches served free	39.8	61.8	40.2
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price.	5.5	5.3	5.6
Total program cost (\$mil.)	331.1	39.1	364.5
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	34.8	34.5	34.5
Children participating (mil.)	3.1	.8	3.4
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	87.6	92.5	87.8
Total program cost (\$mil.)	38.2	7.9	44.8
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	30.7	25.1	32.5
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	20.9	22.5	23.3
Percentage of all meals served free	77.3	76.6	77.1
Total program cost (\$mil.)	36.3	35.0	40.4
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.2	3.3	3.4
Food cost (\$mil.)	99.9	107.2	108.9
Total program cost (\$mil.)	126.9	130.9	143.4
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program:</u>			
People participating (thous.)	139.6	134.6	135.5
Total program cost (\$mil.)	2.4	2.4	2.4
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	104	106	106
People participating (thous.)	140.1	150.0	142.5
Total program cost (\$mil.)	4.4	4.0	4.1

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of November 25, 1986.

Food and Nutrition Service
Program Information Division

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexan-

dria, Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, directly to the Regional Office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

Job Title	Area of Consid.	Series	Grade	Closing Date	Vacancy Number	Organizational Unit
Clerk/Typist	(L)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	86-35	FNS
Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-318	6	12-15-86	86-56	OAE
Food Prog Spec.	(FNS H)	GS-120	12	12-09-86	86-57	SFPD
Financial Manager	(A)	GM-505	14	12-22-86	86-58	MWRO
Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-318	5/6	12-29-86	86-58A	AD
Secretary Steno/Typ	(G)	GS-318	6/7	12-29-86	86-59	AD
Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-318	6/7	12-29-86	86-60	PID
Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-318	5	12-29-86	86-61	FNP
Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-318	4/5	12-29-86	86-62	PED
Emp. Rel. Speclst.	(G)	GS-230	9/11/12	12-29-86	86-63	PED
Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-318	5	12-29-86	86-H-64	HNIS

AD - Accounting Division
 BUDG - Budget Division
 PED - Personnel Division
 OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
 PID - Program Information Division
 FNP - Family Nutrition Program
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 MWRO - MidWest Region, Chicago, IL
 SFPD - Supplemental Food Programs Division

Area of Consideration:

(FNS H) - FNS Headquarters
 (FNS N) - FNS Nationwide
 (G) - Government-wide
 (A) - All Sources
 (L) - Local Commuting Area